

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



Come to the cross and learn of God's great love for all His people. There is friendship, fellowship, and the gift of God's word of forgiveness.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 5 MAY, 2018

PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear St. John Saints,

The month of May is now upon us. There are a number of things that are observed and celebrated in May—just like there are every month. I'm sure the children are happy about this year's school ending for the summer. The weather is getting warmer and we are looking to do outdoor activities. Farmers are getting ready to plant wishing they had been able to start—maybe they finally have. And for each of you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I'm sure this month holds something special in store for each of you.

Whatever it is you are looking to enjoy in May, I pray that first it will be the Lord's mercy. Then, an appreciation of His creation. And third, still setting time for worship and prayer. This gives a good witness to the world as we called to do by our gracious Lord and King.

Lamentations 3:22–23 (ESV): The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

God's love and forgiveness are "new" every day. As one draws closer to God, a person will see that he/she is unholy and sinful before God. Yet, we also see the mercy of God who forgives our sins in Jesus Christ. This is something that we should remember and give thanks for every day. Don't let the rush of all your activities distract you from the most important and eternal things—your relationship with Jesus Christ your Savior. Remember that His whole life was lived for you and His sacrifice saved you from an eternity in hell. Devote time each day for prayer—confession and repentance, remembrance and thanksgiving for God's mercy, and asking His guidance in life according to His commandments.

Psalms 19:1 (ESV): The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

The One Who loves you and wants to be in relationship with you is the One Who made all that you get to enjoy. Ball fields—God made that grass. Camping trips—God made the woods and the rivers and the sky and the stars and the creatures, etc. Beach—God made the sand and the waters. Mountains, parks, pools, plains—all are His and made by God for you. Thank God for them. Be good stewards of these gifts of creation—don't litter and recycle. Appreciate the wonders God has made and let them remind you of God's favor and blessing to you.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV): And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together (gather for worship), as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

As summer rolls around—and it will get here—it is easy to shrug off worship time. I encourage you to make that commitment to time for worship. God has given you all your time. Acknowledge His gift of time by setting first that time for worship. Jesus Himself was in that gathered time for worship every week. As God has given you the gifts of precious time and beautiful spaces, thank and praise Him for them. This month and every month. Today and everyday. Praise God for all His gifts in Christ Jesus.

Peace, Pastor Toensing

PLEASE HAVE ALL INFORMATION OR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER TO CHRIS HOLLMAN BY 25TH, THANK YOU!

CLOTHING FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN:

We can once again send used clothing to Orphan Grain Train. When leaving clothes at the back door, please mark them for either OGT or PCM

RESTART YOUR HEART

Pain and loss are inescapable on this earth; fortunately, the Great Physician specializes in fixing hearts. Our participation is vital to recovery, though, as Danny Gokey sings in “Tell Your Heart to Beat Again.”

The song was inspired by a pastor asking to watch a cardiac surgeon — one of his congregants — in action. When the doctor attempted to restart the patient’s heart after repairing it, the organ wouldn’t cooperate. The surgeon knelt to speak to his patient: “We have fixed your heart. We have repaired it. There is nothing wrong with your heart. If you can hear me, I need you to tell your heart to beat again.” And it did — because she did.

“You can get back up again,” says Gokey, who faced loss when his first wife died. “You can move forward with your life, and you don’t have to walk with a limp.” God has fixed our hearts, Gokey says, but we need to recognize that — and begin to hope again.

JUST FOR PUN

- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- If you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done.
- A man’s home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- When two egotists meet, it’s an I for an I.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

MAY BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS

BIRTHDAYS

1 Chris Hollman
 2 Joshua Shore
 3 Darleen Dittmer, Brady Hestermann
 4 Katelyn Novak
 5 Kristen Nyhoff
 6 Ellie Koch
 7 Beau Hartman, Lisa Nelson, Arlyn Wohl
 10 Ken Behrens, Becky Dittmer
 12 Terry Reetz
 13 Elliott Reitz, JoAnn Renner, Brent Wohl
 15 Marvin Nitzel
 16 John Reitz
 17 Doug Karl, Shirley Vosika, Anton Slama
 18 Ron Kalkwarf
 20 Diane Kahle

21 Noreen Wild
 23 Andrea Pomajzl
 25 Marlene Wagner
 26 Kirk Miller, Ethan Sublett
 27 John Haufle, Tyler Stehlik
 29 Michael Ellingson, Michael Gropp, Calen Homolka, Alex Munro
 30 Dylan Wagner
 31 Bob Renner

BAPTISMS

2 Brad Kalkwarf, Taylor Reetz
 4 Butch Mehl, Jennifer Meinke, Victoria Slama
 6 Andrew Ellingson, Christina Rezac, Frank Slama, Sami Weber

8 Kourtlynn Reetz, Grayden Easley
 10 Dennis Kattau
 12 Deb Nyhoff
 14 Jason Jordan, Kristi Reetz
 15 Lee Miller
 16 Jerome Kalkwarf, Dean Prochnow
 17 Barry Doiel, Dominick Hensley, Chris Kirkpatrick, Lillian Kubicek, Janice Reetz, Pastor Maynard Toensing
 18 Becky Dittmer, Chris Hollman
 22 Arlyn Wohl
 23 Ellie Koch, Brent Wohl
 25 Rollo Schultz, Karen Tiedeman
 26 Jessica Trautman
 27 Terry Reetz, Terry Stehlik
 28 Ron Kalkwarf, Josh Shore, Kaylie Brethouwer

OUR MISSION Share the Joy of His News by growing inward through God's Word, Sacraments and fellowship and by growing outward through words, actions, and mission outreach.

**SAVETHE DATE: JULY 22-26,
PLUNGE INTO VBS 2018!**

At Splash Canyon VBS, your children learn God keeps His promises on life's wild ride! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where our faithful God keeps His promises to be with us and gives us life and hope through Jesus, our Savior.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

God was at work in the Reformation. Fierce debates over Scripture, church doctrine, and late medieval church practice led to theological positions articulating salvation as God's grace in action, with man being left to add nothing to his own salvation. In A Man Named Martin - Part 3: "The Movement", our Men's Bible Study group here at St. John will see how the Reformation transformed European society and, eventually, left a profound impression around the globe. The Bible Study, fellowship and great discussion are also free! Come join us on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. here at St. John. We welcome all!

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY IS MAY 13! St. John's Board of Education will be showing their appreciation to all volunteers that helped with Sunday school, Midweek and VBS over the last school year by serving ice cream sundaes to the congregation following worship service. The children will be sharing a special craft with this year's volunteers. Thank you, Cathy, Tammy and Marla

LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on April 25, 2018, with Donna Hillgren as hostess. The meeting opened by singing, "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness". Pastor Toensing led us in Bible Study on Matthew, chapter five.

Roll call was taken with eleven members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given.

OLD BUSINESS: President Diane Kahle thanked everyone for their help at Donna Kalkwarf's funeral service and also for supporting our "Ladies Night Out". There were twenty-eight ladies present. Special thank you to Irene Reiss for providing entertainment.

NEW BUSINESS: Ascension Day is on May 10. After the evening service, the Ladies Aid will be serving strawberry shortcake. Every one is invited to join us.

The Ladies Aid will furnish 12 dozen cookies for the June Bloodmobile. The hostesses for May will be Carol Brinkmeyer and Noreen Wild. Birthdays celebrated in April were Donna Hillgren and Pastor Toensing. The birthday song was sung. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer.

Shirley Reetz, secretary

THE GIVER

It is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to out-give God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to him, he will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave. —Charles Spurgeon



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The April Evangelism Committee meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2018. Members of St. John are always invited as we continue working through the book, “5 Things You Can Do to Witness Christ”, with reading and open discussion. Further updates/news can be found on the St. John Evangelism Committee page on the church website, www.stjohnkramer.org.

LAMBS OF CHRIST PRESCHOOL

The students at Lambs of Christ are on the move. Our Jesus Time lessons, this month are all about telling the world about Jesus. The disciples traveled the world sharing the love of Jesus with all they met. We can travel the world in many different ways today. The last day of Preschool for the 2017 – 2018 school year will be Monday, May 21st.

Preschool Graduation and Achievement Day... We will be celebrating with our 4 students who are heading off to Kindergarten next fall on Monday, May 21 at 7:00 PM. The celebration will also include the T/Th class and the Young 3's class as we celebrate with them all of the progress they have made this year. You are invited to join us for a short program in the Church Sanctuary at Bethlehem presented by the preschool children. Before the Program the Preschool Board will be hosting a light supper in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00 – 6:45. Please call the preschool at 402- 826-4375 to let us know you are coming for supper.

Enrollment 2018 – 2019 School Year... We are currently accepting enrollment applications for the 2018 – 2019 school year. The number of students enrolled is up from last year but we still have space available. Please contact the preschool office at 402-826-4375 for more information about enrollment. The 2018-2019 school year will begin on Monday, August 20th.

FROM THE LWML

LWML PROJECTS—SIXPENCE

During the month of May the LWML is gathering items for Sixpence in Crete, which is an early childhood learning program for young women and their children. It is funded through the Crete Public School system.

At the present time there are 42 children ages new born to three years old in this program. These children and mothers are in need of many items.

Beginning the first Sunday in May, May 6, a display will be in the narthex with information about Sixpence. There will also be a list of items this program needs and samples of those items. We ask that you consider donating items and placing them in the container under the display.

We thank you for your anticipated gifts to this program. The LWML.

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The St. John Building Committee will continue to schedule meetings at periodic intervals as new developments or tasks present themselves. We invite members to find general Building Committee updates and announcements of meeting dates and times on the Building Committee page of the church website, www.stjohnkramer.org.

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CHURCH –LCMS**

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH

Schedule at a Glance

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (Sundays)...Last class May 13	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (Wednesdays) Last class May 2	6:30 p.m.
Elder's Meeting (May 7)	6:30 p.m.
LYF Roadside Cleanup (to be advised)	
Lutheran Women in Mission (May 15)	7:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Meeting (May 30)	2:00 p.m.
Evangelism Committee (May 1)	7:00 p.m.

FROM THE ELDER'S

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

This past month we welcomed five new adult members into our congregation by means of confirmation. Please pray for, and encourage these young people to stay active in our congregation and their christian lives in general. We also thank the midweek teachers and pastor for the good instruction they've received.

Be sure to try and attend our voter's meeting about the potential building project. We value input from all our members about our congregation's future.

We will also be needing volunteers this summer for vbs. If you or your older child would consider helping please contact a member of the board of education and offer your services to help with the next generation of christian leaders.

In Christ's love, The Saint John elders

THOSE SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

DUTY	May 6	May 10 7:00 pm	May 13	May 20	May 27
Organist	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz	Jolene Reetz	Jayne VanAsperen	Jolene Reetz
Elders	James Walker	Terry Dittmer	Gary Meinke	Todd Hoyer	Ken Tesar
Greeters	Mr & Mrs Del Reiss and Mr & Mrs Elmer Reetz	Mr & Mrs Bob Renner	Mr & Mrs Rollo Schultz and Mr & Mrs Larry Pomajzl	Mr & Mrs Ken Tesar and Mr & Mrs Terry Reetz	Mr & Mrs James Walker and Mr & Mrs Darren Weber
Acolytes	Jordyn Adam & Rylee Pospichal	Skye Hoyer & Hugo Pomajzl	Jacob Meinke & Ted Muff	Nick Hollman & Katelyn Novak	Colton Homolka & Mersadies Kvasnicka